

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 11-13, 22, 23 and 30 remain pending in the application. By the foregoing amendment claims 11-13, 22 and 23 are amended; and claims 9, 17-19, 26 and 31 are canceled without prejudice.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 8 of the final Office Action that claim 30 is allowed. In response, claims 11-13, 22 and 23 are amended to depend from claim 30; and claims 9, 17-19, 26 and 31 are canceled without prejudice to place the application in condition for allowance.

On page 3 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. To address the Examiner's concerns, claim 9 is canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the final Office Action, independent claim 12, along with various dependent claims, is rejected as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,757,855 (Kun et al.). On page 5 of the final Office Action, dependent claim 18 is rejected as being unpatentable over the Kun patent in view of U.S. Patent 4,550,694 (Evans). On page 6 of the final Office Action, independent claim 12, along with various dependent claims, is rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,997,031 (Kashiwada '031) in view of the Kun et al. patent. On page 7 of the final Office Action, dependent claims 18 and 19 are rejected as being unpatentable over the Kashiwada '031 patent in view of the Kun et al. patent, and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,893,669 (Kashiwada '669).

The Examiner has indicated that claim 30 is allowed, claims 11-13, 22 and 23 are amended to depend from claim 30; and claims 9, 17-19, 26 and 31 are canceled without prejudice to place the application in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant's claim 30 is allowed, and the remaining claims that depend from claim 30 are also in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC



Date: April 19, 2006

By: By No. 48,360

Patrick C. Keane
Registration No. 32,858

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620